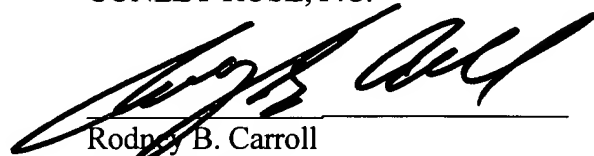


Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 10-18 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over JP-73023405. Applicants have obtained an English language translation of JP-73023405 (Sho 48-23405), which is submitted with this response in a supplemental IDS for the Examiner's consideration. As can be seen from the English translation, the '405 reference is drawn to a solvent based oligomerization process, whereas Applicants claim a solvent-free system. For example, on page 1 of the translation, the invention of the '405 reference "is characterized in that this reaction is conducted by using, as solvent, paraffin or part of the low grade propylene polymerization products" (emphasis added). The English translation is replete with additional statements as to the importance and necessity of a solvent. In contrast, Applicants claim a solvent-free oligomerization process, as now expressly recited in claim 1 by the addition of the term "solvent-free", which is supported inter alia by the Examples in the specification. The solvent-free process is further positively recited by use of the term "consisting essentially of" with respect to the catalyst complex and modifier, which thereby excludes solvent as disclosed by the '405 reference. Applicants note that the '405 reference provides comparative examples without solvent, but none of the comparative examples include the claimed solvent-free process employing a combination of a catalyst complex consisting essentially of boron trifluoride and an alcohol promoter and a modifier consisting essentially of carboxylic acid. Thus, the '405 reference does not teach or suggest the solvent-free oligomerization process as recited in claim 1, and in fact expressly teaches against solvent-free processes. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 10 and dependent claims 11-18 are not obvious over the prior art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or comments or otherwise feels it would be helpful in expediting the application, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (972) 731-2288.

Respectfully submitted,
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.



Rodney B. Carroll
Reg. No. 39,624

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS

Date: May 29, 2003

5700 Granite Parkway, Suite 330
Plano, Texas 75024
Telephone: (972) 731-2288
Facsimile: (972) 731-2289